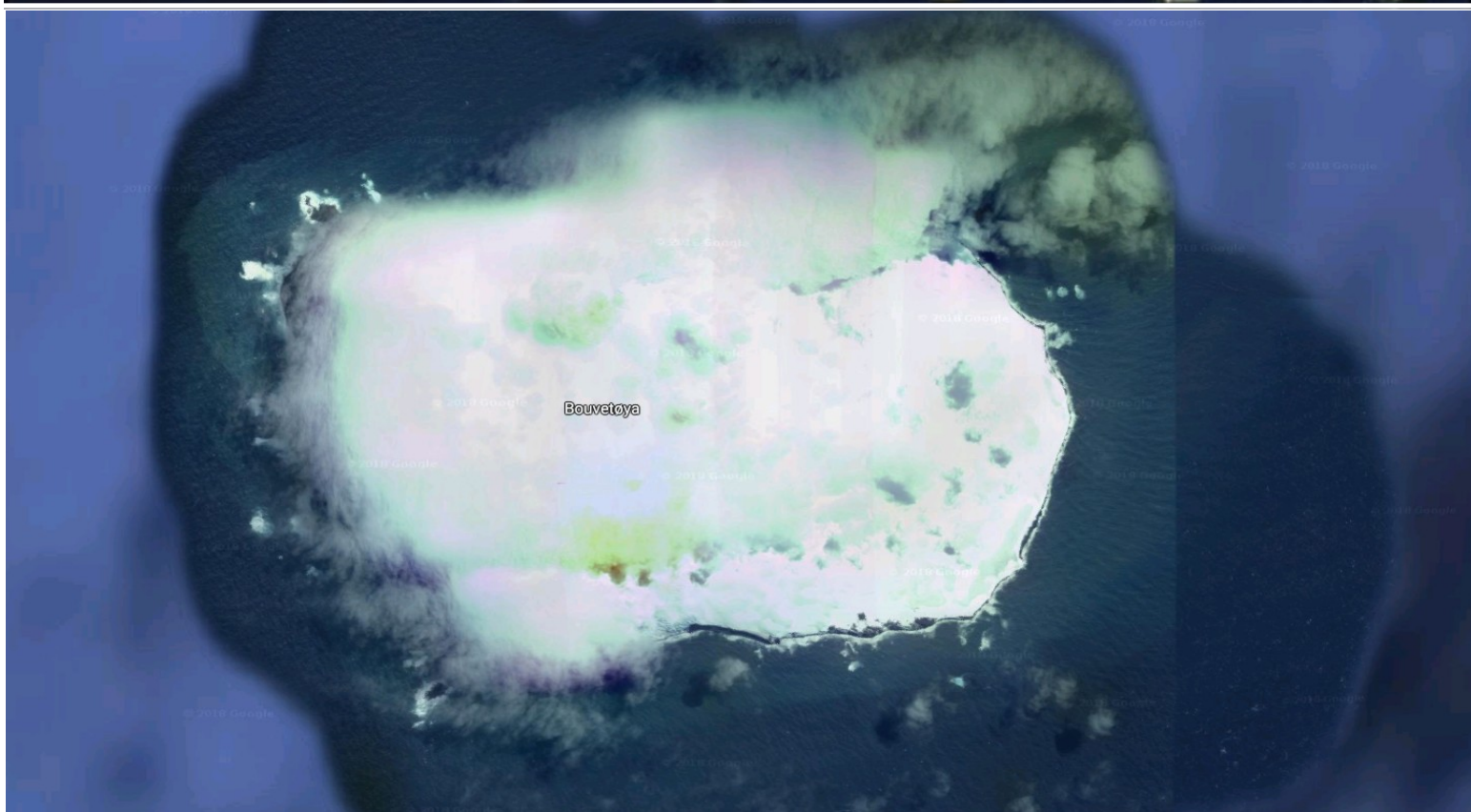


San Diego DX Club Bulletin

February 2018



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Getting to 3000 in the ARRL DXCC Challenge

By Ned Sterns AA7A

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 2018

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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From the Prez . . .

Mike, NA6MB

There was a lot of DX and Ham Radio news this month. Most of our club members follow the news, but I'll recap it for those who haven't kept up.

Possibly the biggest news was the failure of the 3Y0Z Bouvet Island DXpedition. They encountered foul weather and engine trouble resulting in the cancellation of the trip before they made landfall on Bouvet. Ralph Fedor, KØIR, who spoke to the SDDXC last year about his experiences on Heard Island, is a key member of this trip as well. The team made it all the way to the island and waited offshore for several days in zero degree weather on a ship in rolling seas trying to get a landing opportunity. I cannot imagine the frustration upon seeing the target in front of you and not being able to get a chance to complete your mission.

It was certainly not due to a lack of preparation. The 3Y,Z team has several members that have been a part of many highly successful DXpeditions. This is one of the most expensive DXpeditions ever, with years of planning. Better luck to them if they try again.

Meanwhile the 3Y0I Bouvet Island DXpedition has been revived. They put their project on hold after the 3Y0Z mission was announced. We'll see what they can do to get to the second most wanted DX entity on the air. Hopefully, Gayle, K6GO and I will not be out of town as we were for 3Y0Z and will be able to work them!

Another event this month was the possible rollback of the ARRL board freedom of speech restrictions. The board met and agreed to "review the entire code of conduct for Board members". We can only hope they remove the restrictions that are in place and retract the censure placed against Dick Norton N6AA last year. I believe the letters, emails and threats of no future donations spurred them to action. We need to be vigilant and renew our efforts if the restrictions are not changed.



Gayle and I had a great Valentine's day followed by my birthday. Seems like there has been a party every few days this month! Retired life is rough ;-) (ed). Jim Price, K6ZH and Joan, N6KIM are coming down in March and he is planning another party, a ham lunch in La Paz, with Mode, XE2V who he met during a contest. Mode is arranging for several La Paz hams to join us. We are going to caravan down with some local Cabo San Lucas hams. Should be a good day of international fellowship.

Last month I mentioned the Bluetooth connected antenna analyzer I recently acquired. I brought it down here (to Cabo) and tested my 4BTV vertical. Seems that it's a bit low on all bands. Time to get out the manual and see if it's one adjustment or one per band. Although we can't legally transmit, I want to be ready in case of disaster and it's needed.

Finally, the International DX Convention (IDXC) is again in Visalia April 20-22, 2018. It is our turn to help with the convention operations. We are helping this year with prizes and the registration table. Ron WB1EAZ our VP is building a list of volunteers, so please contact him to volunteer.

Even if you don't volunteer, go to the convention. It is always a good time with all kinds of presentations (DX, technical and general ham), great prizes, dinners and friends.

I won't be back for the February meeting but I'll see you all at the March meeting.

73 and good DX,

Mike, NA6MB

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

Meeting Minutes, January 24, 2018

Mike Binder, NA6MB called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. 48 members and seven guests were in attendance. Our guests were John Wright, K6CPO, Peter Riley, KM6PPM, Bo Kordel, N7BK, Ulla Kordel, K7AFB, Bill Hare, AD7AC, Rafal Tamulski, N6TRA (his 2nd meeting), and our speaker Bob Brehm, AK6R.



Old business – A set of QSL cards was a left-over prize from the Holiday Party. It was given to Ron Rosson, N6XT.

New business - The 69th Annual International DX Convention will be held in Visalia, CA on April 20, 21 and 22, 2018. Our club is responsible for the registration table on Friday and Saturday. We are also looking for a volunteer to give a “DX 101” class. The Rookie of the Year was awarded to Joan Sieber, N6KIM. John Barcroft, K6AM presented the Top 10. The club membership approved new member Ryan Salazar, W6ZAR.

At approximately 6:50 pm we started the roundtable discussion.

At 7:38 P.M. Bob Brehm, AK6R gave a presentation on End Fed Antenna Secrets for portable, emergency and permanent installations.

At 8:43 P.M. the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

Income for January: \$250.00 for membership.

Expenses for December: \$13.00

Statement Balance on 1/28/2018 \$6,110.47

Randy, KQ6RS



VP Report

Ron, **WB1EAZ**



As most of you have heard, the 3Y0Z Bouvet expedition was cancelled and the ship arrived in Capetown after more than a month at sea. Apparently, one of the ships engines was lost and the captain felt that it was no longer safe to continue the expedition. The team has stated that they intend to try again. Hopefully the contract the team had with the boat company had wording that payment was not required if there was a mechanical problem. We will wait and see.

Many of you will have worked Z60A or one of the other Z6 stations by now for an ATNO. Martii Lane, OH2BH, and others have worked for 10 years to get ARRL to accept Kosovo as a new entity. Hope all were successful and got the band slots they were looking for. I am sure that, in a short period of time, Z6 will be as common as many of the other EU countries.

Recently, Joe Taylor, K1JT, and team announced the development of a FT8 DX mode that will be beta tested. The nickname for the new system is “Fox and Hounds” as it is promised to have the ability for the DX to transmit on 5 different frequencies at the same time and hence work 5 stations at the same time in preparation for KH1, Baker Island this summer. For me this is a “wait and see”. Working DXpeditions recently using FT8, I can see that, in a way, one additional transmitting frequency would be helpful to provide instructions – split up or down or a directional call, etc. But some of the FT8 bands are so small that 5 different frequencies transmitting with dozens of others calling seems like potential chaos; but we’ll see how it works.

On another note, I note that airmail service for QSL cards seems to have slowed. For instance my H40GC card was mailed from LZ on December 11 and did not arrive until January 25. I am also waiting on a few other cards that I have been told have been sent.

It is time to get ready for the International DX Convention. Our club has traditionally assisted in staffing the registration desk. The registration is open April 20, 11:00 A.M.—5 ;00 P.M. and April 21, 8 ;00 A.M.- 5 ;00 P.M. We need individuals to staff the registration at these times. Please let me know your availability a ronaldbrichards@gmail.com.

The recent ARRL Directors’ meeting was interesting. Just about all the items on the agenda that were objectionable to many were withdrawn, and the acceptance of Z60 as a new entity seems to have quieted down the uproar. Unfortunately, the censure of Dick Norton, N6AA, was not withdrawn at this time.

Note that we have a lineup of extraordinary programs. AA7A will speak at the February Meeting on how he reached 3000 countries in the DX challenge and more. N6CW will discuss 6M Dxing at the March meeting.

January Program

Secrets of End Feed Wire Antennas

By Bob Brehm, AK6R

Bob discussed how to select, choose, and setup an end fed antenna system that works on multiple bands; is stealthy; and radiates well at low heights. His presentation provided the secrets of antenna matching, reducing RFI and minimizing noise present on many end fed antennas. Sample antennas were available to see and touch and to ask questions.

February Program

Getting to 3,000 in the ARRL DXCC Challenge

By Ned Sterns AA7A

Ned will provide a summary of the DXCC Challenge Program and what it took to reach the 3,000 level, the 1st ever from a station west of the continental divide. This was a 42 year long effort that is not for the weak of heart. Ned will update us regarding ARRL activities

Ron, WB1EAZ

THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

The "TOP 10" is in ZF for the contest season. Returning after the contests.

John, K6AM

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



Bouvet Island 3Y/B

Like many of my fellow SDDXC DXers, I was able to check Bouvet off my “Most Wanted” list in January, 1990, almost 30 years ago. At the time, Bouvet was at or near the top of almost everyone’s list of needed entities, with the last operation having taken place about 10 years prior (3Y1VC). That operation made only about 2,000 DXers happy, while an earlier operation by 3Y1VC (accompanied by 3V3CC), active on February 24,



1977 for about two hours, resulted in just 50 QSOs and did not do much to satisfy the demand.

The first Bouvet activation was (allegedly) by Gus Browning, W4BPD who claimed to have operated as LH4C in 1962. Gus provided no documentation for the operation causing many to feel it never really took place. Indeed, when reading the account of the LH4C operation, Gus nonchalantly ignores questions of how he actually landed on the island. Recent visitors say that the only way to land on Bouvet is by helicopter. Gus didn’t have a helicopter. But DXCC administration and credentials enforcement were both more relaxed

in 1962 than they are today.

After the LH4C “operation”, Bouvet Island was first activated seriously in 1977 by 3Y1VC and 3Y3CC, and then several years later by 3Y1VC and 3Y5DQ during the austral summer of 1978—1979. Previous expeditions have been done largely as part of official scientific and governmental activities of Norwegian Polar Exploration efforts. The initial two expeditions by Norwegian amateurs produced a total of approximately 2,500 QSOs. The first major expedition to Bouvet Ø ya (Norwegian spelling) was conducted once again by two Norwegian operators supplemented with three visitors. The two leaders of this expedition, Einar, LA1EE, and Kare, LA2GV, formed a support group named Club Bouvet (along with Erling, LA6VM) to provide emotional and financial support for a major DXpedition to Bouvet Island in 1989. These two operators were joined on the expedition by Jin Fujiwara, JF1IST, Jacky Calvo, F2CW and Willy Reusch, HB9AHL.

Next up was 3Y0C in 2000. Chuck, N4BQW (now SK) was there for his job as a scientist. He operated often, using a beam and an amplifier, making several thousand DXers happy.

Finally, 3Y0E, in 2008 by Petrus, ZS6GCM, also there for his job, operated for only a few days and made just a few QSO’s.

As it turns out, only one full scale DXpedition has ever taken place on Bouvet and this, put together with its inaccessibility and unpleasant weather, justifies its current position as #2 on the most wanted list, second only to P5, the DPRK.

But DXers are intrepid and the need for Bouvet remains great. So we see some operations that were planned but never completed, including 3Y0FP in March, 1988. Approval was granted to SM7DSE/7S8AAA to be QRV 05-10 March, but the operation was cancelled due to bad weather that prevented the helicopter from landing.

3Y0G was cancelled in 2017 because of a lack of operators.

3Y0Z, the most recent planned operation, was called off due to adverse weather that would have prevented the team's landing as well as problem with one of the ship's engines.

The remoteness of the island and the difficulties in activating this entity will continue to keep Bouvet near the top of the "most wanted list" under the current country criteria.

Some Bouvet trivia gave me a chuckle. I've heard these stories before, but I thought I'd share them with you because there is very little "real" data about the island.

On September 22, 1979, a bright flash of light was seen between Bouvet and Prince Edward Islands by the United States' Vela satellite. Now known as the Vela Incident, it is believed that the flash was caused by a secret South African-Israeli joint nuclear bomb detonation, though neither country has officially admitted to such.

A more sinister side to the Bouvet story references the "New World Order" or the "Illuminati". Not wishing to help spread internet rumors, I will leave that exercise to the interested reader. Feel free to try a Google search for "Possible NWO Headquarters Discovered - At World's End".

I learned a bit about the cancelled 3Y0Z operational logistics from a couple of the unhappy DXpeditioners who returned without setting foot on the island. Briefly, the team spent 41 days in total travelling to and from the island and to and from home. They were at sea for 31 continuous days and travelled 5,000 miles by sea. A cost accounting per expedition member amounted to a total out-of-pocket cost of \$26,000 on this adventure, including \$18,500 to sign on; \$3,000+ for cold weather gear; \$3,500 for airfare, hotels and food plus another \$1,000+ for miscellaneous expenses. DXpeditions aren't cheap.

And now that Bouvet Island remains at #2 on the DXCC list, hope springs eternal for a reprise. As I wrote in the June 2016 SDDXC Bulletin:

Three proven and experienced DXpedition leaders and a large team of operators have announced that they plan to activate the DXCC number #2 most wanted DXCC entity in late 2017 or early 2018. Ralph K0IR, Bob K4UEE and Erling LA6VM have been working on this project since returning from Peter I (3Y0X) some 10 years ago.

Polish DXpeditioner Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, and four other operators announced that their postponed plans to mount the 3Y0I DXpedition to Bouvet Island are back on.

“Our trip planned originally at the end of 2017 was canceled at the request of the organizers of the 3Y0Z expedition,” an announcement said. “Due to the cancellation by the [3Y0Z] organizers, we are now returning to the implementation of our project and preparations for our trip as a matter of urgency.”

I heard about this announcement at a Southeastern Tennessee DX Association meeting last Monday evening from one of the 3Y0Z expeditioners. Checking further, I learned that the US liaison for 3Y0I is N0UN. So I emailed him asking for more details. Here is his reply:

Hello Bob, thanks for the inquiry.

Nothing new to report other than license is in hand.

No dates, team members, or really much of anything to report, really. The Rebel DX group does things a little different as you can see, lol.

www.rebeldxgroup.com

73,

Wayne "Lumpy" Ordakowski - Amateur Radio Station N0UN

Email: n0un@n0un.net

Website at: <http://www.HamSupply.com/>

According to the new website, <https://k38dom0.wixsite.com/rebeldxgroup> the 3Y0I team has chartered a seagoing yacht adapted for extreme weather conditions to make the 12-day, 2,800-nautical mile trip from South Africa to Bouvet Island. The team anticipates operating for about 2 weeks.

I wish them safe travels and very 73.

Bob, K9RHY